

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. J. T. Bowman, Private Secretary to the Governor, appeared at the bar of the House, and, being duly announced, presented a message from the Governor, which was read as follows:

Governor's Office,
Austin, Texas, March 29, 1913.

To the House of Representatives.

House bill No. 376 is "An Act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a State Training School and Home for the Feeble-minded of Texas, to locate same, and to provide for its control and management, and for a board of advisors, to determine conditions of admission to said Training School and Home, and to make appropriations for its establishment and maintenance, and declaring an emergency."

The Superintendent of the Epileptic Colony at Abilene advises me that an institution for the care of feeble-minded children could be conducted with success in connection with the Epileptic Colony and without additional overhead expense for physicians, superintendents and management.

The Democratic platform calls for the speedy passage of bills for the appropriation of sufficient money to erect additional asylum buildings to accommodate the insane of the State which are now confined in county jails. A bill was introduced in the State Senate, same being Senate bill No. 65, providing for an appropriation of \$250,000 to carry out the platform demand herein referred to. Said bill provides that \$25,000 of said sum be used for the erection of buildings to care for feeble-minded children, the purpose being to accommodate such children as are not able to care for themselves.

It is believed that \$25,000, judiciously expended, is as much as conditions at this time require or justify. I do not believe that we ought to establish additional institutions and create additional offices where they are not absolutely necessary for the efficient treatment of the unfortunate of the State.

For the reason that I do not believe conditions justify or require the establishment of a separate institution such as is provided for by House bill No. 376, in pursuance of a sense of duty, under the circumstances herein referred to I shall feel called upon to disapprove said bill, the provisions of which are practically taken care of in Senate bill No. 65, to which I have made reference,

and to which I have called the attention of a number of members of the House and of the Senate who are interested in caring for the unfortunate feeble-minded children; but I do believe, also, that the Legislature, while making provision for these, ought to as promptly provide for the unfortunate insane who are now languishing in the county jails, and I appeal to the Legislature to pass a bill which will take care of these unfortunate classes, as Senate bill No. 65 will do.

I am sure that this bill was likewise introduced in the House of Representatives, but I am unable to locate its number. Hence my reference to a Senate measure which has not reached the House. Respectfully submitted,

O. B. COLQUITT,
Governor of Texas.